



MILLMOUNT MARTELLO TOWER MILITARY EXHIBITION



The Committee, this time led by Noel Bailey, is to be congratulated on the opening of the Military Exhibition in the tower. Sincere thanks are due to a kind local benefactor (who wishes to remain anonymous) for presenting the Museum with a collection of historical weapons. Millmount, of course, was a military fort, probably from pre written history times. It saw action in the times of Hugh deLacy, Cromwell, the Civil War, etc., etc. Visitors to the tower will see five cabinets of military equipment, mainly guns, reflecting Drogheda's and Millmount's military past.

One cabinet displays guns from the two famous **Sieges of Drogheda**, 1641 and 1649. Highlighted here is an original **matchlock gun of 1641**. Next there is a cabinet devoted to the **Battle of the Boyne** with a **flintlock gun**.

Then there is a cabinet on the **Drogheda Militia** and the **Co. Louth Militia**. A uniform, with the original colours, of the Drogheda Militia is on display.

Another cabinet displays guns from 1800's to 1922 and includes the famous **Fenian guns**, found relatively recently in the former **Franciscan Church**. You can also see an excellent selection of duelling pistols. Finally, a cabinet there has a display of **medals and ribbons** from various regiments and wars.

Military flags hang from the ceiling; including flags of **Cromwell, Charles I, William of Orange, James II, Erin go Brath, Drogheda Militia**, etc. Two **cannons** are expected shortly to add to the collection.

Thankfully, Drogheda no longer has a military presence and, more thankfully, has no need of one. However, it is unquestionably a major part of the historical fabric of the town and this excellent exhibition is a great addition to the Museum complex.

Noel Bailey, with the backing of the **Committee**, has done a superb job to make the exhibition happen. Noel acknowledges the expert advice, assistance and cooperation of **Boyd Rankin** and **Lynn Williams** of the **Battle of the Boyne Visitors Centre, Oldbridge**.

COACH TOUR- 5th April 2008

Co. DOWN BRONTË HOMELAND TOUR

Participants on the Brontë Co. Down Homeland tour had a most enjoyable day. After mid-morning refreshments in **Altnaveigh House**, Newry, the coach took us to Rathfriland, then on to **Drumballyrone Church**. **Mrs. Carole Brontë** (married to a direct descendant of Patrick Brontë) was our 'on board' guide.

Patrick was, of course, the father of the famous Brontë sisters, Charlotte, Emily and Anne. His great-grandfather, **Hugh mac Aedh Ó Proinntigh** (Prunty, then Brunty), was born near **Newgrange, Co. Meath**.

In **Drumballyrone Church**, which is now a Heritage Centre, (where the Brunty – later Brontë - family attended) Carol gave a talk on Patrick's life. A brilliant student, Patrick, moved to Cambridge in 1802 to study theology at St. John's College and, eventually, was offered Perpetual Curacy of **Haworth**, West Yorkshire, in June 1819, where he took his family in April 1820.

From Drumballyrone Church and School, the drive brought us to **Knockiveagh**, with beautiful views of the **Mournes**, to **Alice McClory's** (Patrick's mother) **Cottage**, Brontë Road, to Patrick's birthplace at **Emdale** and **Glascar School**, where Patrick taught in the 1790's.

Fans of the Brontë sisters' novels will be enthralled by this tour, which gets visitors from all over the world. A great way to spend a nice summer's day.

Information is readily available from Altnaveigh House (Bistro/Restaurant), 51 Downshire Road, Newry, Co. Down BT34 1EE, - tel: (028) 3026 5151.

CULTURAL OUTING- Tue. 29th Apr. 2008

St. Peter's Male Voice Choir & Guests at the Helix.

A first for the Society was the coach trip to the Helix Theatre, Dublin to see the always terrific St. Peter's Male Voice Choir and their Guests. Tickets for the event were like getting tickets for an All-Ireland. The Choir had a capacity audience and, needless to say, they captivated the audience with their singing and music.

Heartiest congratulations to Edward Holly, conductor, the various soloists, the musicians and the Choir itself. Everybody on the coach had a wonderful time and the main verdict after was "We must do this sort of event again."

EVENING LECTURE- Wed. 20th Feb. 2008

"Millmount's Cosmic Alignments: New Data"

Anthony Murphy, assisted by **Richard Moore**, delivered a most stimulating slide illustrated lecture on the new data they have discovered relating to the Neolithic monuments and astronomical alignments. While researching work to update their book **"Island of the Setting Sun – in search of Ireland's Ancient Astronomers,"** they uncovered significant evidence about the Millmount Mound's place in the **Brú na Boinne** complex.

They had a "full house" in the Governor's House lecture room and the audience was enthralled by their findings. The updated book is due out this summer and, undoubtedly, will be a sell-out as was the first edition. **Brendan Mathews** gave the vote of thanks, seconded by **Don Byrne**. Congratulations to Murphy & Moore on their great and exciting work.

EVENING LECTURE- Wed. 26th Mar. 2008

"The Augustinians - Aspects of Drogheda in the 19th century"

by Fr. Iggy O'Donovan

Fr. Frank Doyle OSA was prior of the Augustinians in Drogheda in the 1800's. He diligently kept diaries of daily events. It's on these diaries and the story of **Fr. Anderson** (of **John Boyle O'Reilly fame**) that **Fr. Iggy O'Donovan** based his most entertaining lecture.

Fr. Iggy had a capacity audience and one would have to think that there is a very good book on his subject – and no better man to write it than Fr. Iggy himself. As most readers will be aware he is well known in church and media circles.

EVENING LECTURE- Wed. 23rd Apr. 2008

"A History of Millmount and Drogheda from a new prospective"

by Brendan Mathews.

This was the final lecture in the Spring series. **Community Historian & ODS Archivist Brendan Mathews** gave a lecture described as a 'tour de force' by **Bernie Morrissey** in her vote of thanks. Brendan shared with us many of the interesting facts he has discovered in his research on Millmount and surrounding area. The origins of many of the **placenames** are fascinating and intriguing. He took us on a journey from the early settlers right up to the place we now know as Millmount. His insights are soon to be published in his latest book **"A History of Millmount."** Congratulations to Brendan and every success to his new book. **Don Byrne** seconded the vote on thanks.

Guided Walking Tours of Drogheda

The **Old Drogheda Society** is presently providing guided **Walking Tours** of the town.

The morning tour starts at **11:00am** & the afternoon tour starts at **2:00pm**, both leaving from the **Tony Byrne Statue near Scotch Hall**.

Price: Adults €3 Concessions €1.

Hear about **Millmount, the Boyne River, the Tholsel, St. Oliver Plunkett, St. Peter's on the Hill, Whitworth Hall, etc., etc.**

“Book of Kells & National Museum”

A full coach brought participants, firstly to **Trinity College Library** where we visited the **Book of Kells Centre**. The Book is the centerpiece of an exhibition which attracts over 500,000 visitors each year. Written around the year 800 AD, the Book of Kells contains a richly decorated copy of the four gospels in a Latin text based on the **Vulgate** edition (completed by **St Jerome** in 384 AD). The gospels are preceded by prefaces, summaries of the gospel narratives and concordances of gospel passages compiled in the fourth century by **Eusebius of Caesarea**.

The new centre is a major development and allows visitors the opportunity to interpret and understand more clearly the work of the Irish monks who created this magnificent world heritage work of art.

www.tcd.ie/about/trinity/bookofkells/

Secondly, we visited the **National Museum** exhibition of “**Soldiers & Chiefs**” at **Collins Barracks**. This exhibition was well worth visiting – give yourself plenty of time to fully enjoy it. It told the story of the Irish at War at Home and Abroad, 1550-2001. National Museum exhibitions are usually excellent and this was no exception.

The Museum’s permanent exhibitions include: Eileen Gray, The Way We Wore, Curator’s Choice, Out of Storage, Irish Silver, Irish Period Furniture, Airgead: A Thousand Years of Irish Coins & Currency, What’s In Store?, The Easter Rising: Understanding 1916, and Soldiers and Chiefs: The Irish at War at Home and Abroad 1550-2001.

We also got a close up view of the **Viking Ship** “The Sea Stallion from Glendalough” in the courtyard.

A good day was had by all.

www.museum.ie

EVENING OUTING- Wed. 4th June. 2008

CARLINGFORD

Unfortunately, the rains fell and the winds blew cold on the evening we visited **Carlingford**. That did not dampen the spirits of our expert guide, **Paddy Small**, who enthusiastically showed us around. His commentary on all the landmarks was informative and interesting. He took us from the beautifully restored medieval **Holy Trinity Church** (now the Heritage Centre) to **King John’s Castle** via the **Dominican Friary** (1305), **the Mint** (15c.), **Taaiffe’s Castle**, **the Tholsel**, etc.

Carlingford is a terrific place to visit, with lots of historical interests and the super Cooley Mountains in the background for one to enjoy (when the summer comes!!).

Many thanks to **Paddy and Jackie from the Heritage Centre for their hospitality.**

www.carlingfordheritagecentre.com

EVENING OUTING- Wed. 18th June. 2008

SKERRIES

The large coach was only just over half full for our outing to Skerries. No doubt, this was because of the inclement weather on the evening. The rains, this year, seem to favour Wednesdays! However, most of this tour was indoors. The focus of the tour was **Skerries Mills, Windmills & Watermills**. Our tour guide was the excellent **Paddy Mc Donald**.

Fingal Co. Co. and **FÁS** have created a fantastic facility here. You have the magnificently restored **Mills, the café, the craft shop**, the regularly changing **wall exhibitions, the visitor & information centre**.

Paddy, our guide, was terrific. With infectious enthusiasm he guided us through the rooms of the mills and brought ‘the brave’ to the top of the one accessible windmill. Like Paddy in Carlingford he was full of information and had no difficulty in imparting his knowledge to his attentive listeners. The story of the mills goes back pre **Henry VIII**. If you haven’t visited Skerries Mills be sure they are worth visiting. Thanks, again, to Paddy. Skerries has maximised its resources and most towns must envy what has been achieved here.

On the way home we stopped at the **City North Hotel** for tea, coffee, (other beverages) and sandwiches. **The City North has always looked after us very well and we thank their Management and Staff for that.**

www.skerriesmills.org

DROGHEDA ARTS FESTIVAL 30th Apr to 5th May 2008

Millmount Traditional day a GREAT SUCCESS

Every year the Arts Festival gets better and better. First of all, congratulations to Festival Director, Rosemary Howell, Drogheda Borough Co. and all the Festival Team on doing a fantastic job once again this year. One has to admire the number and the variety of activities, over the six days. Literally everybody, young and old, was catered for - Culture and Arts of all sorts were portrayed by artists from Ireland, England, Scotland and France.

A number of ODS Members dressed up in medieval costume for the Sunday Traditional Day at Millmount. The area was awash with colour, music and dance, arts and crafts. A credit to all participants. The attendance, also, was excellent all afternoon.

We all hope that this Festival continues annually and express sincere thanks to Rosemary for her work and creativity. The Council are also to be thanked for continuing their support for this outstanding cultural event.

CHAIRMAN SEAN IS THE TRAD MAN!

Shortly after publication of our last ‘**ODS & Ends**’ our esteemed chairman **Sean Corcoran** was appointed “**Musician in Residence**” by **Drogheda Borough Co.**

Congratulations to Sean on this appointment. Already the town has seen the fruits of his labours. Indeed, Millmount has hosted a number of lectures under the title “**The Millmount Sessions.**”

Sean has an international reputation in the traditional music world and has performed and lectured in many parts of the world.

Workshops are running at present under the title “**Give Voice! Traditional Sean Nós Singing,**” organized by Sean in association with **Drogheda Borough Council Arts Office.**

These workshops will run every Thursday for 4 weeks in the Millmount Centre, Millmount, Drogheda at 8pm, starting on Thursday 19th June, 2008 and ending on Thursday 10th July, 2008; tel: 041-9876165

COMING EVENT

JBO’R SUMMER SCHOOL 2008

The date of this year’s school is **Sun., 14th Sept.** The theme is “**THE FENIANS**” to celebrate the **150th Anniversary** of the founding of the organization.

The revolutionary society was founded by **John O’Mahony** in **1858**. O’Mahony, who was a Celtic scholar, named his organization after **the Fianna**, the legendary band of Irish warriors led by **Fionn mac Cumhaill**. Venue and full details will be circulated in due course.

It is timely to extend deepest sympathy of all the ODS Society Members to our esteemed Summer School Patron, Dr. T. K. Whitaker on the death of his wife, Mary, last April.

MORE COMING EVENTS

WATCH OUT FOR NOTICES giving **FULL details** on upcoming events:

EVENING OUTING on **Wed. 9th July** to **Bective Abbey & Dalgan Park.**

ANNUAL DAY AWAY trip on **Sun., 20th July** to **Howth.**

We will be the guests of **Howth Singing Circle & Goinn Singing Club** who will sing **Sea Shanties on the Pier**. Also, at the pier will be a very popular **Market & there will be time to explore all the stalls.**

The ‘activities’ are expected to finish about **5:00pm approx.** & we will stop for **Dinner on the way home.**

HERITAGE WEEK

Sun. 24th to Sun. 31st August.

To celebrate **Heritage Week** the ODS will be leading two **FREE Town Walks** on **Sat. 30th Aug.**

‘**Heritage Day & Walled Town Day**’ on **Sunday, 24th Aug.** will include a **Pageant**. The pageant will be performed by **Upstate Theatre** and will take place at **Millmount.**

ODS for Eternal City

Registrar, **Betty Quinn**, confirms that the forthcoming ODS trip to **Rome** is **fully booked**. Participants fly out on **Mon. 29th Sept.** & return on **Fri. 3rd Oct.**

All the details of the trip are still being worked on, but, it is expected that tours of the Vatican and the Ancient Sites will be included. Hopefully, we will also follow in some of the footsteps of the Irish Earls (of Flight fame!), who are buried in **Church of San Pietro, Montorio, Rome**, which is close to the Irish Embassy to the Holy See.

Participants will be notified in full in due course of this most exciting project.